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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Chairman of the Economic Intelligence Committee, USIB DATE: 10 January 65

FROM : NSA Member of the EIC

SUBJECT: Comments on Future Structure and Activity of EIC Vis a Vis Its Subcommittees

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

1. On 7 January a discussion of above subject was held between the NSA member on the EIC and the NSA members of the EIC subcommittees. From this emerged the impression that the EIC subcommittee structure may not, as a whole, have been operating effectively, and that many opportunities for useful communication among community analysts, directly or indirectly working on specific subjects, may have been lost; but it was felt that in those instances where subcommittees have held regular meetings they were of value in orienting the NSA members to the status of intelligence knowledge and needs in their respective fields. This was cited as particularly so in the areas of [REDACTED] From there the situation drops to where there has been little or no activity for long periods of time, and abolition of subcommittees might be justified.

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2. Clearly, mere inaction on the part of a subcommittee is not, in itself, justification for abolition, but it does raise questions such as:

(a) Does the US community have adequate sources of intelligence on each and all of these subjects?

(b) Can the gaps, if any, be partially filled by more assistance from agencies not ordinarily charged with primary responsibility for the subjects?

(c) How can the EIC improve its guidance to the subcommittees, particularly to foster better awareness on the part of potential collateral contributors of what they can contribute.

3. It's hardly likely we'd admit we know all we need to know, even if we are in most cases agreed on basic statistics. Therefore in answering the above questions we might wish to consider several possible courses of action, varying from subject to subject:

(a) Continue certain present subcommittees but alter method of procedure to see that meetings are held at least for swapping of information.

(b) Abolish some subcommittees but transfer certain of their functions to either a "general" subcommittee or back to the EIC itself.

(c) Broaden the activities of the EIC to include more guidance to subcommittees and to cover sponsorship of periodic intelligence seminars or some other types of projects to give potential contributors to the picture a chance to be briefed, perhaps by the "experts" who do the final analysis and reporting on the subject.

(d) Examine for adequacy our liaison with the other committees of USIB (and their subcommittees) who often, because of specialized connections with certain subjects [REDACTED] have interests overlapping with ours.

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(e) Work actively to get adequate clearances for all subcommittee members who have need-to-know (many past subcommittee meetings have been held at secret levels where meaningful discussions could only have been held at higher levels).

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NSA Member on EIC